

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey S. Bernard on December 4, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

Claim 6, line 18, delete "from one end of the tubular wrapping to an opposing end" and insert --thereof and--.

Claim 14, lines 18-19, delete, "from one end of the wrapping to an opposing end" and insert --thereof and--.

Claim 21, line 5, delete "from one end of the tube to an opposing end" and insert --thereof and--.

Claim 24, line 3, delete "from one end of the tube to an opposing end" and insert --thereof and --; and

Claim 24, line 6, "limp" should read --limb--.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0016444 discloses ribs and U.S. Patent No. 5,526,656 discloses outwardly extending tufts.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim M. Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, from 5:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco, can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kim M. Lewis/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3772

Application/Control Number: 10/595,353
Art Unit: 3772

Page 4

kml
December 4, 2009